



The Fomichovs

3rd Quarter Report 2016

July

“... he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...” (Luke 4:18).

Our God is an amazing God. From the first day of camp, God began showing us His praise. On the first day, after we walked all through Desna and distributed personal invitations to all the children and their parents. I got a call from a brother from our church. He asked whether he could give my phone number to one young woman.

I said, “Okay,” but I was wondering why she would need it. I have known her for a long time, from before I became a believer, but hadn’t talked to her in a long time. So there I was, sitting in church with the whole team, when my phone rang. I answered, and a man’s voice explained that he’s the husband of this Lena and that they wanted to talk to me. But in the background I heard his wife Lena say, “Give me the phone; let me tell Igor everything.”

He gave her the phone and she greeted me and began to talk as if she and I had been in communication for all these years. She said, “Igor, we can’t live this way anymore. We’re tired of everything and have so many problems with no end in sight. I’ve tried psychologists, doctors, but no matter who I go to, nobody can help. My one hope is in your church and in God. I’ve heard how you help people to straighten out their lives. Help us.”

From there, she began to tell how they had just been sitting in the kitchen and talking about life, about how there was no way out, about how she felt she must soon die as a result of their lifestyle when in walked their son Ilya with an invitation to camp. She told her husband they must call Igor and ask for his help.

I said, “Come to the service this Sunday and we will talk.”

“We will come,” she said. “But is there any meeting earlier than that?”

“There’s a Wednesday night meeting.”

“We will come.”

“All right,” I said. “On Wednesday I’ll meet you near the church.”

I went back into the meeting room and told the whole team how God used our distribution of invitations to show people the way out of their misery. I asked everyone to pray for Lena and her husband Leva, that God would bring them to repentance.

Wednesday morning my phone rang. I saw that it was Lena and Leva’s number. “Will there be a Wednesday meeting?”

“Yes, there will.”

“All right, we’re coming.”

Three more times before that evening they called and repeated this same routine. When they entered the church, they said, “Igor, we need to talk.”

We stepped into a side room, where they began to recount the story of how sin had destroyed their lives. I told them that Jesus can lead them out of their mess, and I explained the Gospel and suggested they begin with repentance.

“We’re ready to do that, but don’t know how.”

I explained, then told them they need to pray.

But Leva hesitated. “Igor, will God forgive me if I have worshipped Satan?”

“He will forgive if you sincerely repent of it.”

At that point they agreed to pray. After their prayer, Lena cried tears of joy. Their very faces were changed. They stayed for the service and began to read the Bible. On Sunday they came for the service and now actively attend our church. Their lives have transformed, and they bear witness of what God is doing in them. For us, this is a huge encouragement. Praise to our Lord!

With respect,

Igor Fomichov

P.S. Pray for Lena and Leva, that God will preserve and uphold them, and that the church will become their own family.

August

This year the Lord gave us an opportunity to hold a tent camp on the bank of the Desna River. We invited youth from Desna and Goncharovsk and Chernighiv. We invited unbelieving young people, so that we could tell them the Gospel. From our perspective, what was special about this camp is that it gave a locale where these young people could be separated from all matters at home, and we could freely tell them about Christ.

Each morning we studied in the book of John (we gave everyone in camp a New Testament). We taught them how to read the Bible, plus the importance of reading it. We permitted them to make notes and to record their own thoughts concerning what God had revealed to them that day in His Word.

Lena

While we were working through the book of John, after one study a girl approached one of the Christian sisters who had talked with her the evening before and asked, “Why did you tell the preacher about me?” The Christian woman replied, “I haven’t told anyone what you confided to me.” But she added that God had been speaking to this girl through His Word. His Word exposes. In the evenings we gathered as a group so we could call these youth to repent. One

evening, when we suggested praying, fifteen of them agreed to pray. This was a great encouragement to me. I know that after camps not everyone continues to go to church, but I believe, after this first prayer of their lives when they asked for God's forgiveness, that God will not forsake them and will guide.

Yet another opportunity we tried in this camp was to go home and continue fellowshiping with them. Floor ball [floor hockey] is a very simple but interesting game, and at first they didn't even want to play it. But after they tried it, we could hardly get them to stop. Sasha and I want to use floor ball as a means of continuing fellowship and studying the Bible with them. In the camp, we saw how the youth enjoyed this type of sport.

Pray with us:

1. For those young people who prayed the prayer of repentance, that they will grow and not weaken in their desire to follow God.
2. Pray for us, that God will give us wisdom and strength to use floor hockey for evangelism.

September

Dear friends! Thank you for your prayers. We see how God is working through the ministry in Desna. Every year in September we hold special activities to present the Sunday school ministry to children and their parents. This year we decided to conduct a "children's square," during which we would have games, contests, a Bible lesson, but as part of the program we decided to offer them cotton candy of various colors. We started by walking through the town and personally passing out invitations, which we gave out in view of the children. If the children were walking with the parents, then this was a good opportunity to chat with the parents and to tell about the Sunday school and about what activities would be during the children's square. In general, everyone accepted the invitations gladly, and the kids declare they will definitely come; but sometimes the parents look at the invitation with distrust. But our own children are now a big help in this as they joyfully run to deliver the invitations. And so people want the invitations more. It's a joy to see how our children are growing up to be future ministers.

Many children attended the children's square and our room was nearly filled up. We joyfully put on skits that retold Bible stories and sang songs with them. Then we gave them tasty cotton candy. The kids were happy, and so were we.

The next Sunday we began to hold the Sunday school, where the first lesson taught the children how to pray, and there are many interesting stories connected with that.

Kristina, age 10

When we suggested praying, Kristina wanted to pray, and she prayed so sincerely for God to give them a roof over their heads. And then she said to the girl next her go ahead and pray, but her neighbor said, "I don't know how." So she told the girl to pray with whatever

words she knows. It was so sweet to hear a young child understand how we should pray. And then, when at lessons end, it was time to draw how they picture fellowship with God. Kristina drew a Bible and printed, "God is our Father. He loves us. He tells us about Himself in the Bible, and in prayer we can tell Him about ourselves."

The children really liked the assignment of drawing on the asphalt with chalk their impressions of fellowship with God. They drew Bibles, they drew people in clouds and many various pictures. All the children prayed.

But we were amazed at how one boy, Seryozha, who came to Sunday school after the children's square, prayed so sincerely for God and thanked Him for that day and for giving him new friends. It was evident that he was very glad to be in Sunday school and to make friends with the other children, and he also enjoyed the atmosphere of our Sunday school.

Pray for the children's ministry in Desna.

- 1) For the teachers, that God will give them the desire to lead this ministry with joy.
- 2) Pray for the children, that they will come to God at a young age.
- 3) Pray that God will give them the desire to attend the Sunday school.
- 4) And pray for their parents.

Respectfully yours,
Igor Fomichov

